

MARY SROUFE.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 98.]

MARCH 5, 1840.

Mr. WICK, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom were referred the petition of Mary Sroufe, and accompanying documents, report as follows :

Sebastian Sroufe, in the month of December, in the year 1824, settled upon the west fraction of the southeast quarter of section 21, in township 1 north, of range 5 east, in the Lima land district in Ohio, and occupied and improved the same until the 8th day of February, 1830, when he departed this life, leaving the petitioner, his widow, with several children, his heirs. The petitioner remained in possession of said tract of land, and improved the same, until the 22d day of February, 1836. These facts are well established, and would be abundantly sufficient to establish the right to a pre-emption, but for the intervention of Congressional legislation. The pre-emption laws apply only to such lands as are not reserved from sale by law, or by direction of the President. Congress, by an act passed on the 24th day of May, 1828, reserved from sale the section on which the tract of land in question is situate, granting one-half thereof for extending a canal from Dayton to Lake Erie, and fixing the minimum price of the residue at two dollars and fifty cents per acre. The pre-emption law secures the right of pre-emption at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre.

The committee do not deem it essential to inquire whether the claim to a pre-emption would, according to law, descend to the petitioner as the widow of Sebastian Sroufe, or to his lineal heirs. The claim is but a meritorious one, and, under the circumstances of this case, ought to enure to the petitioner as the widow.

The committee report a bill, and recommend the passage thereof.

Blair & Rives, printers.

MARY SROUFF.

(To accompany bill H. R. No. 28.)

MARCH 5, 1840.

Mr. Wick, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom were referred the petition of Mary Srouff, and accompanying documents, report as follows:

Sebastian Srouff, in the month of December, in the year 1824, settled upon the west fraction of the southeast quarter of section 31, in township 1 north, of range 5 east, in the Tama land district in Ohio, and occupied and improved the same until the 8th day of February, 1830, when he departed this life, leaving the petitioner, his widow, with several children, his heirs. The petitioner remained in possession of said tract of land, and in proof of the same, until the 22d day of February, 1836. These facts are well established, and would be abundantly sufficient to establish the right to a pre-emption, but for the intervention of Congressional legislation. The pre-emption laws apply only to such lands as are not reserved from sale by law, or by direction of the President. Congress, by an act passed on the 31st day of May, 1828, reserved from sale the section on which the tract of land in question is situated, granting one-half thereof for extending a canal from Dayton to Lake Erie, and fixing the minimum price of the tract at two dollars and fifty cents per acre. The pre-emption law secures the right of pre-emption at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. The committee do not deem it essential to inquire whether the claim to a pre-emption would, according to law, descend to the petitioner as the widow of Sebastian Srouff, or to his lineal heirs. The claim is but a meritorious one, and, under the circumstances of this case, ought to ensure to the petitioner as the widow.

The committee report a bill, and recommend the passage thereof.

John A. Liver, printer.